

As you know, the work of the City in the area of cleanliness was recognized by outside agencies and organizations as an example of quality management as well as for its positive impact in our community. In 2007, the Public Area Cleanliness Program, exemplified by our "Clean Team," became the Governor's Florida Sterling Council 2007 Quality Team Showcase State Champion. This award specifically recognizes teams that demonstrate the principles and techniques of improving quality through employee participation. In addition, our City's Public Area Cleanliness Program was recognized as the project that imparted the greatest community impact.

As the 2007 Sterling Quality Team Showcase winner, our team represented the state of Florida in the American Society for Quality's International Team Showcase at their World Conference on Quality and Improvement, which took place in Houston, Texas on May 5-7, 2008. With thirty-one (31) teams selected to compete, the City's "Clean Team" was only one of twenty-six (26) teams that actually competed, and was the only public sector organization amongst giants of manufacturing and the private sector, such as Boeing, Healthways, and Bayer MaterialScience LLC. I am proud that in our first experience competing at the state and international level on quality management, the scoring report showed that our City was merely 0.6 points behind the bronze winning team, and was only one of ten teams to score above 100 points.

Of even more significance, for a first year participant in a highly technical competition, the City of Miami Beach was able to show that quality of life issues can be just as complex, if not more difficult, to address and tackle as those of private industry. Even more meaningful in light of our efforts to foster team work and a "One Team One City" philosophy, the Clean Team was awarded the Attendee Choice Award for Team Spirit, an award defined by exuberant demonstration of zest, tempo and camaraderie.